

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 09364 040922Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 DHA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /067 W
-----037490 040933Z /20
O R 040848Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7410
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 9364

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM PINT KS
SUBJ: ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON ROKG-DISSIDENT DIALOGUE ON
PRISONER RELEASE

REF: (A) SEOUL 9312

1. CHUNG IL-HYUNG, EX-NDP ASSEMBLYMAN AND MYONGDONG DEFENDANT, HAS PROVIDED ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON CURRENT EFFORTS TO RESOLVE PRISONER ISSUE. ACCORDING TO CHUNG, ROKG SOUGHT OUT TWELVE PROMINENT DISSIDENTS TO DISCUSS MATTER. GROUP INCLUDED FORMER PRESIDENT YUN PO-SUN, MRS. YUN, BISHOP CHI, CARDINAL KIM, REV. KIM KWAN-SUK (KNCC SECGEN). REV. CHO NAM-KI (KNCC HUMAN RIGHTS SECGEN), QUAKER HAM SOK-HUN, PROF. AN PYONG-MU, REV. PAK HYONG-KYU, MISS YI U-CHONG, PROF. KIM TONG-KIL, AND CHUNG IL-HYUNG HIMSELF. THEY DELIBERATED AS A GROUP, BUT CHOSE THREE MEMBERS - BISHOP CHI, PROF. AN AND REV. PAK HYONG-KYU - TO CARRY OUT NEGOTIATIONS WITH KCIA DIRECTOR.

2. KCIA AT FIRST SOUGHT TO CONCENTRATE EFFORT ON RELEASING MYONGDONG PRISONERS HOLDING KIM TAE-CHUNG FOR LAST. YUN PO-SUN ARGUED STRONGLY FOR REJECTION OF ANY DEALS WITH ROKG, BUT EVENTUALLY GROUP AGREED TO GO FORWARD WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 09364 040922Z

NEGOTIATIONS IF KCIA WOULD AGREE TO FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

(A) PRIORITY IN RELEASING KIM TAE-CHUNG; (B) EVENTUAL RELEASE OF ALL EM-9 AND EM-4 PRISONERS. KCIA ACCEPTED CONDITIONS. CHUNG SAID NEGOTIATORS MADE CLEAR TO KCIA THAT PRISONERS COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO SIGN SERVILE STATEMENTS OF REGRET OR CONTRITION, BUT CHUNG FELT KCIA REALIZED

THIS ALREADY. CHUNG SAID SIGNIFICANCE OF GROUP'S EFFORTS WAS TO DEMONSTRATE TO PRISONERS THAT LEADING DISSIDENTS IN KOREA WANT THEM TO LEAVE PRISON AND THAT THEY CAN DO SO WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING THEIR STATUS IN EYES OF THEIR COLLEAGUES. CHUNG ADDED NOTE THAT DURING DISCUSSIONS PROF. AN ASKED KCIA OFFICIAL WHY ROKG HAD CHOSEN TO MOVE ON PRISONER ISSUE. OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY REPLIED ROKG ACTING AT LEAST IN PART BECAUSE U.S.G. INTEREST IN PRISONERS' WELFARE WAS HIGH.

3. KIM TAE-CHUNG'S RESPONSE TO CARDINAL DURING LATTER'S VISIT TO CHINJU (REPORTED REFTEL) WAS DELPHIC AND HAS GIVEN RISE TO VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS. ONE OF KIM'S SECRETARIES QUOTED MRS. KIM AS SAYING THAT HER HUSBAND GAVE CARDINAL GENERAL APPROVAL OF ACTION OF DISSIDENT GROUP BUT THAT HE INSISTED THAT HE NOT BE RELEASED UNTIL ALL OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE FREE. FURTHERMORE, A STATEMENT KIM CAN SIGN IN GOOD CONSCIENCE MUST STILL BE WORKED OUT. SOME INTERPRET KIM'S VIEWS AS CLOSING THE DOOR TO PROGRESS, BUT OTHERS ARE OPTIMISTIC, CONSIDERING THAT THE SCENARIO ALREADY DEvised IS FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO MEET KIM'S NEEDS AS LONG AS ROKG INTEREST IN PROGRESS REMAINS AS HIGH AS IT IS NOW.

4. CHUNG IL-HYUNG SAYS THAT IF THE PRISONER RELEASE GOES THROUGH, AS HE FEELS IT WILL, THE DISSIDENTS GROUP WILL SEEK TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATING WITH THE ROKG IN ORDER TO OBTAIN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 09364 040922Z

RESTORATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS TO FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS, TO SEEK A NEW TRIAL FOR THOSE SERVING PRISON TERMS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CASE OF THE PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY PARTY, AND TO OBTAIN AMNESTY FOR CERTAIN PERSONS CONVICTED UNDER THE ANTI-COMMUNIST LAW SUCH AS POET KIM CHI-HA. AS NOTED IN REFTEL, IN THIS INSTANCE ROKG FOR FIRST TIME HAS DEALT WITH DISSIDENTS AS SUCH. APPARENTLY, CHUNG BELIEVES PRECEDENT WILL PERMIT DISSIDENTS TO REMAIN IN CONTACT WITH ROKG.
STERN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, PRISONERS RELEASE, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL09364
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770406-0908
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771194/aaaadctj.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cb0f2e22-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SEOUL 9312
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 711190
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON ROKG-DISSIDENT DIALOGUE ON PRISONER RELEASE
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cb0f2e22-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009